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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

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Senior Requirements Officer  
Liaison and Requirements Branch  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM: George Kolt  
National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT: Upgrading FBIS Report on West Europe

1. The attached memorandum presents the views of analysts and senior consumers regarding their requirements on media coverage in West Europe. As you can see the bottom line is that we need more extensive and more timely information on a variety of topics to meet increasingly sophisticated demands for analysis. The outlook is for a heightened concentration on old problems--like INF, SDI etc, expanded attention to key events like elections and policy debates as well as higher priority coverage of trends in Southern Europe--including Spain, Greece and Turkey.

2. In sum, the need for your product is, if anything, increasing as we enter mid-decade. I fully support the analysts requests for increased FBIS coverage on the topics cited and look forward to discussing with you soon how these new needs may be met.

  
George Kolt

Attachment:  
Draft Report

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1. Thorough coverage of the West European media is essential to our analytical efforts on the region. More often than not, US analysts and senior consumers rely on media reporting--especially the wire services--for our first indication of critical developments that require immediate attention. And analysis of the West European print media is a key component of our effort to detect underlying societal and political trends that have longer term implications for US interests.

2. Intelligence analysts tend to be insatiable but there are broad priority issues on which we could have used more coverage and would like to see it expanded in the future. Here are some of our thoughts:

- In 1984-85, we could have used more in-depth coverage of economic policy debates in the major countries. In most countries, the question of how to deal with unemployment, in particular, will be a central concern.
- We would be in a better position to understand political activities of grass roots political trends if we had more coverage of good regional newspapers (Sud-Quest and Midi Libre in France, for example, or La Nazione in Italy), papers associated with smaller but potentially important political parties, or trend-setting journals such as Les Temps Moderne in France. Public and elite opinion is often affected by ideas bubbling up from such sources, and we fail to spot some rising trends if we give scant attention to such publications.

-- Finally, we would have benefited in the past, and would appreciate in the future, greater coverage of the media in a range of countries for which only limited information is available in English. Elections in Sweden and Norway this September will be of interest, for example, and it would be hard to stress enough the need for greater coverage of Greece and Turkey, where key US interests are at stake and where solid, dependable information is particularly hard to come by.

3. As we look to the coming year, there are several individual subjects that are likely to require priority attention in terms of media coverage.

-- It would be hard to overdo the effort on SDI. Key questions are how the Europeans hope to contribute, their expectations of the US, and their receptivity to a separate European effort.

-- INF remains a major concern, and the coverage of events likely to affect the deployment program (the Belgian election in December, the Dutch INF debate in November, and the Dutch election in early 1986) will be important to our effort. We will need coverage of opinion trends in the run-up to these events, along with details on subsequent

events, such as coalition negotiations. In particular, discussions in the Dutch press of how many SS-20 missiles the Soviets have deployed will be of major significance for The Hague's decision and could help us anticipate Soviet efforts to manipulate Dutch opinion.

- Legislative elections likely to be held in France around March or April are another top priority, along with followup events such as the Socialist Party Congress in October. We are particularly interested in what people say between now and the election about how to cope with the likelihood that after the vote France will have, for the first time in the Fifth Republic, a President of one political persuasion (Socialist) and a parliament/government of another (center-right). We would like more coverage of French television on such issues.
- In West Germany, media trends on issues like SDI and inner-German relations will be of high interest, along with events that could affect the strength and stability of the Kohl government. With respect to the latter, we would appreciate close coverage of state elections in Lower Saxony, Bavaria, and Hamburg in 1986.
- In southern Europe, our top priorities would include the Italian presidential election this June, the NATO

referendum question in Spain, the UN effort to negotiate a Cyprus settlement, and trends in Greek-Turkish relations.

We would be particularly interested in following closely the aftermath of the Greek national election in June.